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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ, a Senator from the State of New Jersey.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Great God and Father, Your anger lasts only for a moment, but Your favor lasts a lifetime. Open our eyes to see the wonders of Your grace. Help us to see the majesty of Your inclusive love to people everywhere. Keep us from being blind to the work You are doing in our world, healing the sick and liberating the oppressed.

Lord, You have watched over our Nation from generation to generation, in prosperity and adversity, in peace and war. In every generation, You continue to provide leaders who are equal to our challenges and who strive to do Your will. Today, accept the gratitude of our Senators for Your generous blessings. Keep them so dedicated to You that they will do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. May faith replace their fear, truth arise over falsehood, love prevail over hate, and peace abide with us all.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 1, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ, a Senator from the State of New Jersey, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. MENENDEZ thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will conduct morning business for 1 hour, and the time will be equally divided and controlled, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3963, the children's health insurance legislation. Cloture was invoked on that motion to proceed yesterday.

As I indicated, after the cloture vote, if we have to stay here to run the 30 hours postcloture, that time will expire at 12:50 a.m. tomorrow morning.

I have had several conversations with Senator MCCONNELL with reference to this legislation and how we can move forward with concluding action in a manner that would not cause the Senate to remain in session over the weekend. But there is no guarantee we can do that.

In the interim, our debate will continue on the motion today. If and when an agreement is reached with respect to moving forward, Members will be alerted to the schedule.

There are some Senators working to come up with another compromise, and I hope they can do that. If they can, I will be the first to have that matter effectuated. At this stage, that hasn't been done. I had a number of meetings yesterday with interested Senators, but talking about it and getting there are two different things. We will work to see what we can do.

### RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### DOING THE WORK OF TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Acting Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service sent a letter to Congress warning about the consequences of not addressing the AMT tax right away. She said that if we don't do something about this middle class tax hike by December, as many as 50 million Americans, more than a third of all U.S. taxpayers, will either get hit by a tax that was never meant for them or forced to wait months for a refund that many of them count on for their family budgets.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Acting Commissioner Linda Stiff be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,  
Washington, DC, October 31, 2007.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter clarifying your plans to enact legislation addressing the alternative minimum tax

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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